

What is claimed is:

1. A method for erasing the hard drive of a customer computer which is connected to a computer network, comprising the steps of:
providing a vendor server connected to the computer network;
installing hard drive erasing software into a software program which simulates the booting of a floppy disk;
installing the boot simulation software into a software installation program;
delivering the software installation program to the customer computer over the computer network using the vendor server; and
executing the hard drive erasing software on the customer computer by executing the boot simulation software.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer network is the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving credit card information from the customer computer over the computer network.
4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of receiving authorization of the credit card information by using a credit card authorization software program.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the hard drive erasing program is a DOS-based software program.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the software program simulating the booting of a floppy disk is PowerQuest Virtual Floppy Technology.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the hard drive erasing software program meets US Department of Defense 5220.22-M, Chapter 8-306 sanitizing standards.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the results of the hard

drive erasing program on the customer computer.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the hard drive erasing program is PowerQuest DataGone.

10. A system for erasing the hard drive of a customer computer which is connected to a computer network, the system comprising:

a vendor server connected to the computer network, the vendor server

having a memory device and processing means;

hard drive erasing software stored in the memory device of the vendor server;

a software program which simulates the booting of a floppy disk stored in the memory device of the vendor server;

wherein the processing means is programmed to deliver, install and execute the boot simulation software and hard drive erasing software into the customer computer over the computer network.

11. The system of claim 10 further comprising credit card authorization software program stored in the memory device of the vendor server and wherein the processing means is programmed to receiving credit card information from the customer computer over the computer network.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the processing means is programmed to receive authorization of the credit card information by using the credit card authorization software program.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the processing means is programmed to deliver, install and execute the boot simulation software and hard drive erasing software using a software installation program.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

15. The system of claim 10 wherein the hard drive erasing program is a DOS-based software

program.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein the software program simulating the booting of a floppy disk is PowerQuest Virtual Floppy Technology.

17. The system of claim 10 wherein the hard drive erasing software program meets US Department of Defense 5220.22-M, Chapter 8-306 sanitizing standards.

18. The system of claim 10 wherein the hard drive erasing software program is configured to display the results of the hard drive erasing operation on the customer computer.

19. The system of claim 10 wherein the hard drive erasing program is PowerQuest DataGone.